

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-14, 16-19, 21-24, 26-29 and 31 remain in this application, are independent, and have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 4, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and will not be discussed further.

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-14, 16-19, 21-24, 26-29 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,699,170 to Yokose et al.

The present invention is intended to provide a solution to certain problems which, in Applicant's view, exist in the field of image transmission and communication, such as by facsimile machines. In general, as explained in the present application, when transmission information (such as the date, time, and number of pages) is added onto image data to be transmitted, the image data that has been compressed and stored in memory is expanded and restored to original image data, the transmission information is added onto this original image data, and the resulting data is then compressed again and transmitted after compression. Since this procedure involves data compression and expansion at the time of transmission, the processing takes time. This problem becomes particularly acute when dealing with a large amount of data.

The present invention relates to the transmission of an image in which transmission information for a header or footer (such as the date, time, and the number of pages) is added onto the transmitted image so that the receiving side may readily confirm the sender of the image and the number of pages in the transmission.^{1/}

^{1/}Of course, it is to be understood that the claims are not limited to the examples discussed.

Claim 1 is directed to an image communication apparatus in which an image is read and image data representing the image is generated. Further, transmission information for a header or footer is added onto the image data. The image data onto which the transmission information has been added is compressed, and the compressed image data is stored in a memory. And, the image data that has been stored in the memory is transmitted.

One notable feature of Claim 1 is that transmission information for a header or footer is added onto image data to be transmitted before compression of the image data. Therefore, in Claim 1, expansion and re-compression of the image data is not necessary at the time of transmission. By virtue of this feature, it is possible to reduce the transmission time.

Yokose et al., as understood by Applicant, relates to communications between image communication systems which include image output means having different performance capabilities. Nothing in Yokose et al. teaches or suggests that transmission information for a header or footer is added onto image data to be transmitted before compression of the image data, as recited in Claim 1. Yokose et al. discusses adding “attributes” as additional information to image data (see column 1, lines 34-65). However, the “attributes” are information for image processing at the receiving side and may be, for example, image resolution information. Therefore, the attributes are not transmission information for a header or footer. And nothing has been found in Yokose et al. that would teach or suggest adding transmission information for a header or footer onto image data, as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 is patentable over Yokose et al.

Independent Claims 2, 3, 5-9, 11-14 and 16 each include the same feature of adding transmission information for a header or footer onto image data to be transmitted before compression of the image data, as discussed above in connection with Claim 1. Accordingly, Claims 2, 3, 5-9, 11-14 and 16 are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

Claim 17 is directed to an image communication apparatus in which an image is read and image data is generated representing the image. The image data is compressed and a marker is added on that is for adding on transmission information for a header or footer. The compressed image data is stored in a memory. The apparatus includes means for detecting the marker from the image data that has been stored in the memory, and replacing, on the basis of a position at which the marker resides, some of the image data with data relating to transmission information.

Among the notable features of Claim 17 are that the image data is compressed and a marker is added on that is for adding on transmission information for a header or footer, and some of the image data is replaced with data relating to transmission information for a header or footer by detecting the marker from the image data. Therefore, in Claim 17, expansion and re-compression of the image data is not necessary at the time of transmission. By virtue of these features, it is possible to reduce the transmission time.

As explained above in connection with Claim 1, Yokose et al. discusses adding "attributes" as additional information to image data (see column 1, lines 34-65). However, the "attributes" are information for image processing at the receiving side and

may be, for example, image resolution information. Therefore, the attributes are not transmission information for a header or footer. And nothing has been found in Yokose et al. that would teach or suggest that image data is compressed and a marker is added on that is for adding on transmission information for a header or footer, and some of the image data is replaced with data relating to transmission information for a header or footer by detecting the marker from the image data, as recited in Claim 17.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 17 is patentable over Yokose et al.

Independent Claims 18, 19, 21-24, 26-29, and 31 each recite features similar to those discussed above in connection with Claim 17, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 17.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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